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International Intrigue Under Museum Cover

By Howard Handleman

Every American school child knows George Washington was "first in war, first in the hearts of his countrymen."

But how many know he was also America's "first spymaster?"

He was. And that is but one of the stories planned for display in the projected National Historical Intelligence Museum.

Other tales to be portrayed in the museum range from the Bible to the modern age of nuclear and space weapons.

Plans to set up the museum to tell the rich story of espionage and its role in shaping American as well as world history are well advanced.

Already, the museum directors are actively seeking a site, preferably in Washington, Virginia or Maryland.

In addition, leaders of a number of national organizations are cooperating. Included are the Reserve Officers Association (ROA), whose Executive Director, Maj. Gen. J. Milnor Roberts, AUS (Ret.), is Vice-President of the museum's board. Also interested are the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, (AFIO), and the Veterans of OSS (Office of Strategic Services). The AFIO President is on the Advisory Board. Other

AFIO members are serving on the museum board and others as volunteers in advisory capacities.

A joint planning group of representatives of the William J. Donovan Memorial Foundation and of the Museum Board is considering how best to combine a collection in honor of Gen. William J. Donovan, founder of the OSS, with other proposed content of the Museum. As planned, it will display and describe OSS operations and irregular warfare during World War II.

The basic concept behind the museum is this: The United States, which banked so heavily on espionage to gain its independence, has no museum to tell the story. The directors want to correct this lack.

Heavy emphasis is to be placed on American intelligence through history, but some exhibits on espionage in other parts of the world are also to be included. Featured will be tales from the Bible, the Chinese master Sun Tzu, Genghis Khan, Queen Elizabeth I, and Napoleon.

Much attention is to be paid to spies and other intelligence stories of both World Wars, the Cold War, and up to the present day. In the American sections, the role of Washington in personally directing

agents during the Revolution is to be prominently exhibited. Operations of both sides in the Civil War will be shown.

The museum will touch all bases. There will be technology, from the fairly primitive secret writing of the Revolution to the lasers and photography from space of today. Feats of imagination and daring, of both women and men, play a large part in the story that is to be told. Planned are exhibits depicting irregular warfare, civil and military operations, strategic, tactical and diplomatic intelligence.

There will be exhibits on the "Enigma" machine and the American "Magic" operation which permitted the reading of some of the most secret Nazi and Japanese codes during World War II.

Enemy exploits are also to be displayed. These include the Kaiser's spies and saboteurs in World War I, Nazi and Soviet espionage during that conflict and afterward.

Industrial secrets have been targets of governmental and private organizations since the Industrial Revolution. There will be exhibits on this still very lively activity of spies.

Special attention is to be paid to communist agents at work today. This includes the Soviet KGB, and

GRU, as well as all East European spy services and the Cuban DGI.

These operations are to be displayed to answer some of the biting questions of today, such as: What are the principal intelligence targets in the U.S. now, what is the KGB doing in the U.S., and how does it operate? The Cuban DGI? What is America doing to protect itself—and us?

In this section the museum will feature known Soviet spies—the Abels, Philbys, Burgesses, MacLeans, Blunts, Blakes, Fuchs, Mays and Rosenbergs of the postwar era.

Before and during the war there was the Sorge Ring in Japan, which will be portrayed. The ring warned the Soviets of the Nazi plan to invade Russia, a warning which Stalin refused to heed. But later he did act on Sorge's word that Japan had decided against attacking Siberia, which enabled the Soviets to divert their Eastern Armies to aid in the successful defense of Moscow.

Landmarks of American history will be exhibited—some successes, some failures. Included are Pearl Harbor, Midway, the ambush of Admiral Yamamoto, the surprise attack on Korea, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the U-2 and Berlin's Tunnel and Wall.

The story of Herbert O. Yardley's

"American Black Chamber" is to be told in photograph and text. It cracked the Japanese code and let the U.S. read reports of how the British and Japanese were in cahoots during the 1921 naval disarmament talks in Washington.

The section on the American Revolution is to exhibit the exploits of a whole galaxy of spies—Paul Revere, Nathan Hale, the "Culpers," Mulligan, Rivington, Aitken, Crosby, Gray, Tallmadge, Armistead, Morgan, Ludwick, Salley Salter, Nancy Morgan Hart—the list goes on and on.

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Most of the names are unfamiliar now. But each performed notable spy work for the Revolution, and will be portrayed. So will very familiar names be subjects of exhibits—Franklin, Jefferson and others.

The exploits of the pirate Jean Lafite and his brothers for Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812 are to be featured.

Guerilla and irregular warfare, too, is to be shown. In World War II there were the OSS operations and Resistance forces in Burma, and throughout Europe, and other such stories as the exploits of Col. Wendell W. Fertig, the engineering officer who stayed behind in Mindanao to command remnants of the U.S. forces caught behind the lines when the Japanese came.

The "Jolly Green Giants" heli-coptered in to North Vietnam to rescue downed pilots, maintaining a tradition going back to World War II days, when the OSS, and other units helped with "escape and evasion."

All these stories will be told.

Prominent in the museum will be the words of Lincoln's Secretary of War, Edwin H. Stanton.

Allan Pinkerton had been sacked as chief of the clandestine service. Lafayette Charles Baker was chosen to succeed him.

Stanton, in chilling words, told Baker:

"Your job is going to be the dirtiest of this dirty war, Mr. Baker. You will be hated as no man ever was hated, but you will perform a service no man ever had the chance to perform for our great country."

"Furthermore, Mr. Baker, you will never be permitted to disclose the authority for your actions. . . You will receive secret funds from me. You will account to me and only me."

Thus, in very few words, Stanton wrapped up two of the key problems of operating intelligence organizations in a democracy, necessary maintenance of secrecy, and how much "accountability" can be maintained and a nation still have effective intelligence activities.

Advisory board members

ROA has a special interest in the Museum, as its Executive Director, Maj. Gen. J. Milnor Roberts, AUS (Ret.), serves as Vice-President of the Board of Directors.

So far, the Advisory Board includes:

William E. Colby, ex-CIA Director, who went behind German lines for OSS in Norway in World War II.

Brig. Gen. James L. Collins, Jr, USA, Chief of Military History.

Lawrence Houston, ex-Legislative Counsel, CIA.

Dr. David Kahn, author of "The Codebreakers" and other works.

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick, Brown University professor and ex-CIA senior executive.

Dr. Maurice Matloff, visiting professor of Military History, USMA, ex-Chief Historian, Center of Military History, DoD.

John F. "Jack" Maury, ex-Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, ex-CIA executive, President of AFIO.

Richard Dunlop, former OSS officer and author of an upcoming book on General Donovan.

Joseph E. Persico, who wrote "Piercing the Reich: The OSS in Germany" and other books.

Lt. Gen. Eugene F. Tighe, Jr, USAF, (Ret.), ex-Director DIA.

Lt. Gen. William Quinn, USA, (Ret.), former Assistant Director of CIA and DIA.

The Board of Directors, in addition to General Roberts, includes:

President, Martin Cramer, Foreign Service Officer, retired.

Secretary, Charles T. Lloyd, former officer at ISA, DoD, and attorney.

Others on the Board include:

Capt. Roger Pineau, USNR, (Ret.), ex-Naval intelligence, former Curator, Navy Museum; Walter Beach, Brookings Institution; Dr. Jules Davids, Professor of Diplomatic History, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown; Howard Handleman, retired war and foreign correspondent, International News Service and U.S. News & World Report; Cynthia Grabo, ex-officer at DIA and author of the basic study on early warning; Arden Ruttenberg, Sam Halpern and "Tack" Swan, former intelligence officers, and Lawrence McWilliams, ex-senior FBI officer.

ROA members seeking information on the Museum, or wanting to volunteer aid in launching it, can write to National Historical Intelligence Museum, Suite 10005 1712 I St. NW, Washington, D.C., 20006.